

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on March 25, 2004, is acknowledged. Claims 13-15 and 20 were rejected in the Office Action. Claims 16-19 were objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated they would be allowable in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-12 and 21-31 were allowed. Applicant requests reconsideration of the above-mentioned application in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claims 13-15 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by German Publication 4109248 A1 to *Wagner*. The above amendments have been made to place claims 16, 17, and 18 into independent form including the limitations of any intervening claims as the Examiner indicated would be allowable in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. In particular, claim 18 was cancelled and the limitations in claim 18 have been included in amended claim 13. Accordingly, claim 18 has been cancelled. Claims 16 and 17 have each been amended in independent form including the limitations of the original claim 13 and intervening claim 15. Claim 15 has also been cancelled as the limitations have been included in amended independent claims 16 and 17.

Having fully responded to the Office Action, Applicant believes that all remaining claims 1-14, 16, 17, and 19-31 are in condition for allowance as recognized by the Examiner in the Office Action, and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowability be issued. Applicant notes that certain claims have been amended and cancelled solely to advance prosecution of the Application and to obtain issuance of a patent at the earliest possible date. Therefore, no admissions or references may be made by the amendments and cancellations herein.

Appl. No. 10/661,203
Amdt. Dated June 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2004

If necessary to effect a timely response, please consider this paper a request for an extension of time, and charge any shortages in fees, or apply any overpayment credits, to Baker & Daniels' Deposit Account No. 02-0387 (95337.82). However, please do not include the payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

June 2, 2004

Date



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